

Special Session

Agenda Item #	5
Meeting Date	October 29, 2007
Prepared By	Capt. Edward Coursey
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of 16 Tasers - Police Department
Background	<p>Many area law enforcement agencies employ the Taser Neuro Muscular Incapacitation Device as part of their arsenal of weapons available to field officers. The device uses a pair of gas propelled darts connected to wires, to deliver an incapacitating high voltage/low amperage electrical charge that causes incapacitation to affected muscle groups in the subject, for short durations of up to five seconds. It is intended to be an alternative less-lethal device, to mere pain-compliance techniques such as batons, and pepper spray. The Taser has a proven track record of decreasing officer injuries and suspect injuries in violent arrest situations.</p> <p>The department currently has two of the X-26 models, which must be “hot-seated” amongst certified officers. This does not come close to guaranteeing that the device will be available in a majority of the tactical situations for which it is suited.</p> <p>The specific brand/model selected is the Taser X-26E, which is their newest and most reliable version of the device. Taser International is the sole source provider for this weapon system presently. Taser International is not on the adopted Nuclear Free America list of parent companies of U.S. nuclear weapons system contractors. The Department intends to acquire 16 devices, at \$1009 per device including extended warranties, for a total cost of the project of \$16,144.</p>
Policy	<p>The device is provided by a sole source provider; consequently, competitive bidding is not required. The quoted price which staff has obtained is slightly lower than the most recent contract price made available to the Montgomery County Police Department in Spring of 2007.</p> <p>The cost is in excess of \$10,000. Therefore, Council approval of the purchase is required.</p> <p>The project will be funded by a BJA Justice Assistance Grant accounted for in budget amendment #1 to the Special Revenue Fund. A single reading ordinance is appropriate.</p>
Fiscal Impact	The total purchase cost of the Taser X-26 devices from Taser International via Lawmen Supply Company Inc. will be \$16,144.00, to be charged against funds secured through the BJA JAG Grant obtained by the City in FY2007, and reflected in the FY2008 budget, as amended.
Attachments	Proposed Ordinance
Recommendation	Staff recommends that the Council approve the attached ordinance.

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2007 -**

Authorization to Purchase Taser Devices

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park desires to supplement its existing Taser equipment so that more officers have access to them; AND

WHEREAS, this device is provided by a sole source provider and competitive bidding is not required; AND

WHEREAS, the device and model desired is the X-26E obtained from Taser International via their area distributor, Lawmen Supply Company Inc.; AND

WHEREAS, neither Taser International nor Lawmen Supply Company Inc. is on the adopted Nuclear Free America list of parent companies of U.S. nuclear weapons system contractors; AND

WHEREAS, the equipment will enhance police services, protect police officers and decrease likelihood of injuries to those arrested; AND

WHEREAS, funding has been secured through a BJA Justice Assistance Grant to provide for these expenses; AND

WHEREAS, the adopted FY08 Budget provides sufficient funding in the Special Revenue Fund for payment of the \$16,144.00 cost of this equipment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:**

SECTION 1. The City Manager or designee is authorized to purchase 16 Taser X-26E devices from Lawmen Supply Company Inc. in the total amount of \$16,144.00 including 5 year warranties, the quoted price being better than that obtained by other area law enforcement agencies with current contracts.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED this ____th day of October, 2007 by roll call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: